



EXHIBIT 4
DATE 1/22/09
HB 2

560 N. Park Avenue | PO Box 4309
Helena, Montana 59604
Phone: 406.437.6005
email: scladouhos@bcbsmt.com
www.bcbsmt.com

Sherry L. Cladouhos
President and CEO

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

January 22, 2009

Dear Chairman Villa:

I am writing today in support of adequate funding for the University System. Last year I had the opportunity to volunteer to be co-chair of the Six Mill Levy. I did this because, as a CEO of a major Montana employer, I understand the importance of higher education for both large and small Montana business.

At Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana well-educated Montanans help us serve the over 300,000 Montanans we service today.

Whether Montana's graduates are folks trained in medical informatics at Montana Tech, registered nurses trained at Montana State University, computer science graduates from the University of Montana, or any of the other well-educated, well-rounded, individuals that graduate from Montana's University System each year, Montana's higher education system graduates are critical to a successful economic and business environment for all Montanans.

Some of the business' we insure today began their roots as start-ups, formed by Montana University System graduates and nursed to success at business incubators using the wonderful research capabilities on our campus'.

Thank you for your important work for the State of Montana, and please adequately fund the higher education system.

Sincerely,

Sherry L. Cladouhos

cc: Senator Barrett
Representative Glaser
Senator Bob Hawkes
Representative Hollandsworth
Senator Peterson
Representative Steenson